

3 April 06

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Report of Retiree Activities US Army Garrison
Darmstadt Area for Second Quarter FY 2006

1. General: This report is submitted to the Garrison Commander on a quarterly basis in lieu of Council Minutes.

2. Council Activities:

a. The council holds office hours each Tuesday and Thursday as referred to in our Retiree Bulletin from 1400 to 1600 hours in the Retiree Council Offices, in Building 4037 on CFK, Telephone number is 348-7602, Civilian 06151-69-7602. At other times the council can be contacted through the Directorate of Human Resources (DHR) (Formerly S-1), and Telephone 348-7410/7561. The cut off for this report is 31 March 2005.

b. The open enrollment period for the Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP) began on 1 October 2005 and runs for one year. To enroll a retiree must pay all back premiums plus interest. The Retirement Services will be furnished with a table to calculate the cost for each person. Premiums will have to be paid for two years after enrollment to prevent death bed enrollment. If the retiree does not live for these two years all funds paid in will be refunded to the survivor.

c. We still have two cases which have been going on for a few months. One involves the son of a deceased widow, who is trying to get back pay for checks his Mother returned to DFAS many years ago. This case may be solved soon. The other is a widow/divorcee who took 2 years to find the right place to get the paperwork and turn it in. The paperwork for her SBP and final pay from her ex-husband was submitted last year, to date she has not heard from DFAS on either item. The first case has been turned over to the USAREUR R.S.O. for help. It appears progress is being made as we have a response from DFAS. In the second case the widow upon returning from a visit to the USA contacted the council as no action was taken by DFAS. The council wrote a letter to DFAS asking the status of her case. A copy of all paperwork was forwarded to DFAS for action, and the USAREUR R.S.O. for information. (These cases are still pending)

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d. The council has been working with three widows who had signed up for International Direct Deposit and as a result did not get a check or direct deposit to their account. One case has been going since December with checks received for presumed these checks are for December & January and Direct Deposit for funds due in January; hence, she is missing the February 06 payment. Inquiries have been sent to DFAS and the Federal Reserve Bank with no response from either. The other cases seem to be coming along good.

e. We are working on the case of a widow, German National, who is attempting to get an income tax refund for 2004.

f. It appears most of our problems are simply people don't know what to do about Direct Deposit. Also, the retiree is not properly preparing his/her spouse for his/her death with the necessary information, such as who to contact and what information to give them. These items are covered in our Estate Planning Guide.

3. ARMAF Activities: (Association of Retired Members of the Armed Forces, Darmstadt)

a. The ARMAF held their March meeting with a guest speaker, LTC Stephen Wooldridge, Commander of the Darmstadt Health Clinic. LTC Wooldridge briefed us about the upcoming Health fair. It will be held on 6 May at the Health Clinic. He will attempt to get specialist to attend and a representative from the Federal Benefits Unit of the US Consulate will be there to cover Social Security and VA problems. The USAREUR RSO and our RSO also plan on being there along with members of our council and ARMAF.

b. The next meeting will be held on 13 April 2006 at 18:00 in the Kontakt Club. The door will be open at 17:00 to allow time to socialize before the meeting. The Commander, USAG Darmstadt will be our guest speaker and will update retirees on what is going on in the community.

4. Point of contact for all retiree issues DHR, USAG-Darmstadt APO AE 09175. Telephone DSN 348-6518/7410, civilian 06151-69-7561/7410. You can contact the undersigned and the RSO at e-mail: retiree@cmtymail.26asg.army.mil (This is a new address)

LAWRENCE FORD
President
USAG Darmstadt Retiree Council